

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-9 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brian et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,548,345 ("Brian").

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by West et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,550,575 ("West").

Claims 3, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Brian in view of West.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Brian in view of Gilboy U.S. Patent No. 5,465,113.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claims 10-39 to more particularly define the invention. Claims 2-9 have been canceled without prejudice. The claims, as amended, were previously allowed in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/221,615 ("the Parent Application"), filed December 28, 1998, now abandoned.* These claims should be allowed for at least the reasons they were allowed in the Parent Application.

* Dependent claims 10-14 have been modified to correct errors in antecedent basis present in the previously allowed claims.

Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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